

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5706

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 9265

BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, TU, US

SUBJECT: CAGLAYANGIL COMMENTS ON TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH
NATO AND THE UNITED STATES

1. MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS DEC 7 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE
NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN BRUSSELS, TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL ISSUED A STATEMENT AFFIRMING TURKEY'S CON-
TINUED COMMITMENT TO NATO. AS BROADCAST OVER TURKISH RADIO,
CAGLAYANGIL CONTINUED BY SAYING, "HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO
POINT OUT THAT UNTIL ALL PROVISIONS OF THE TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED, TURKEY'S
PARTICIPATION IN NATO WILL NECESSARILY BE LIMITED. I HOPE THAT
THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE U.S. WILL SOON BE RATIFIED
SO THAT TURKEY MAY FULFILL ITS NATO OBLIGATIONS AS IT DID BEFORE.
IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN, THEN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE
FORCED TO RE-ADJUST ITS PARTICIPATION IN NATO."

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2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS AND

PRESIDENT -ELECT CARTER'S STATEMENT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE, CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT HE HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT THE
ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT IN THE U.S. WOULD NOT RESULT IN A BASIC
CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY. CAGLAYANGIL SAID, "I STILL BELIEVE THAT.
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED AND NO
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE SOME
INDICATIONS THAT AMERICAN POLICY WILL NOT CHANGE AND THAT THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE TURKEY'S STRATEGIC
AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE HAVE ALWAYS WANTED FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE HAVE
NO DIRECT DISAGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. THE CYPRUS QUESTION WILL
BE RESOLVED ONE DAY. NO DISPUTE LASTS FOREVER IN THIS WORLD.
FOR US, TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN
TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS. ONE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE
OF THIS. I BELIEVE THAT TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE COOPERATION AS WELL
AS TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE. WE ARE NOW
IN A PERIOD OF WAITING. WE WILL BE PLEASED IF DURING THAT PERIOD
THE U.S. CONGRESS MAKES THE DECISION DESIRED BY TURKEY.
OTHERWISE, WE SHALL BE COMPELLED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS."
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